# A Strange and True RELATION Of a Wonderful and Terrible Earth-Quake,

That hapned at *HEREFORD* on *Tuesday* last, being the First of this present *October*, 1661.

Whereby

A Church-Steeple and many gallant Houses were thrown down to the ground, and several of the Inhabitants slain; with the terrible Thunder-Claps and violent Storm of great Hail-stones that then fell, which were about the bigness of an Egge, many Cattle being thereby utterly destroyed as they were feeding in the Field.

Also,

The prodigious and wonderful Apparitions that was seen in the Air, to the great amazement of all Spectators, who beheld two perfect Armes and Hands: In the Right-hand, being grasped a great broad Sword, and in the Left, a Bowl full of Blood, from whence they heard a most strange and loud Voice, to the wonderful astonishing of all present, the fright whereof causing divers Women to fall in Travel, amongst whom the Clerks Wife, named *Margaret Pelmore*, fell in labour, and brought forth three Male-Children, who had all Teeth, and spake as soon as they were born, and presently after gave up the Ghost and died together, the like having never been known before in any Age!

The Truth hereof is witnessed by

*Francis Smalman*, and *Henry Cross*, Churchwardens.
*Peter Philpot*, Constable.
*Nicholas Finch*, Gent.
*James Tulley*, Gent.
*George Cox*,
*Robert Morris*,
*Thomas Welford*, &c.

*London*, Printed for *J. J.* 1661.

A

# True and perfect Relation of the terrible Earth-quake, great Claps of Thunder, and mighty Hail-stones, which hapned at Hereford, on Tuesday last, the first of this present October, &c.

BEfore I mention any further concerning this strange and sudden Accident, which hath so lately befaln at Hereford, and that this Real and Authentique Truth may not seem doubtful, I shall put the Reader hereof in minde to take notice and remember the several Disasters that hath befaln, not long since in, and about London, which I need not here to declare, yet none so wonderful, or worthy of observation as this; but let it not seem strange, for we

know, and often read, that the Lord doth ſometimes manifeſt his will unto the World in Wonders and Signes, thereby in ſome part to ſhew his Omnipotency, and let them know that he is ſtill the Almighty God, and that he ſees and knowes all our ways, how ſlight ſo ever we make thereof: Then how can we praiſe him ſufficiently, when he hear of this ſtrange Diſaſter that did ſo lately befal at Hereford, in that he was pleaſed to keep the like from us here in London, we being as ſinful as any: But he that is all Mighty and all Powerful, is alſo all Goodneſs and all Merciful, whereon depends the beſt hopes of all good Chriſtians.

And now to deſcend to the ſubject I was before ſpeaking of, which was of the violent Tempeſt and terrible Earthquake, &c. that hapned at Hereford, be pleaſed to obſerve the true Relation thereof, which is thus:

ON Tueſday laſt, being the firſt of this preſent October, 1661. about 2 of the clock after Noon, there hapned a great and violent ſtorm to ariſe, to the amazing and aſtoniſhing of all the inhabitants: The firſt beginning was with a moſt terrible Winde, which continued for the

the ſpace of 2 hours, with ſuch vehemency, that it forced the Tiles off the Houſes, inſomuch, that none durſt come out at their doors; in the midſt of which ſtorm, was blown down the Steeple of a Church, and many brave Houſes, the falling whereof hath killed ſome perſons, but what they are, or whom, we yet know not.

Then the Air began to be darkned, but ſuddenly clearing again, the people began to look abroad; and ſo continuing for a while, all aſſuredly thought the ſtorm to be over, but contrary to their hopes, about 6 and 7 of the clock in the Evening, their Ears were ſolicited with unwonted Claps of Thunder; and, more to augment their fear, preſently fell ſuch Hail-ſtones, that the like was never ſeen in any Age before, each Hailſtone being about the bigneſs of an Egge, which ſeveral Gentlemen of quality affirm, I ere preſent in London, who certifie, that they deſtroyed the Cattle in the Field, and did much other harm.

Then followed a terrible and fearful Earthquake, which continued almoſt for the ſpace of half an hour, which ſo amazed the inhabitants, that they thought the laſt Day had been come; and immediately appeared a great brightneſs, as if it had been Noon-day, but was preſently overcaſt

cast with a thick Black Cloud, out of which appeared a perfect Arme and Hands; in the Right-hand was grasped a great broad Sword, and in the left a Cup, or Bowl, as they conceived, full of Blood.

Having glutted their eyes with amazement, and filled their hearts with great fear with beholding these prodigious Apparitions, more to astonish both them and us, appeared to their eyes a piece of Corn ground, ready to mow, and a Sythe lying by, from whence they heard a most strange and loud voice, which said; Woe, woe to thee, and to the inhabitants thereof, for he cometh that is to come, and ye shall all see him

At the conclusion of these words, the people made a grievous cry, as indeed they might, and many Women that were with Child, through extream fear, fel in travel, but none so wonderful to be taken notice of, as Mrs Margaret Pelmore, the Clerks Wife of the Town, who for the space of twenty Weeks, wanting her bodily health, had sought for cure of the Doctors: This Margaret Pelmore at that very instant fell in travel, being exceedingly affrighted, and brought forth 3 Male Children, who had all teeth, and spake as soon as they were born. The first said, The Day is appointed

pointed which no Man can shun. The second demanded, Where would be found sufficient alive to bury the Dead? And the 3d said, Where will there be Corn enough to satisfie the Hungry and needy.

As soon as they had spoken these words, they all immediately gave up the Ghost and died, to the great astonishing and amazing of all present, and the Mother of the said Children doth at this time lie Distracted and raging in such extream manner that none can tell, as yet, whether she will live or die!

The truth whereof is witnessed by

| | |
|---|---|
| *Francis Smalman,* | *James Tulley,* |
| *Henry Cross,* | *George Cox,* |
| Churchwardens. | *John Groom,* |
| *Peter Philpot,* | *Robert Maurice,* |
| Constable. | *Thomas Welford,* |
| *Nicholas Finch,* | And divers others. |

FINIS.